

NO ABOUT FACE ON SHIP ARMING, WILSON INSISTS

No Real Break Expected Between Lansing and Von Bernstorff.

PUBLIC CRITICISM BROUGHT OUT "HINT"

U. S. Awaiting Replies of Germany and Allies on Submarine Issue.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—Pending receipt of Germany's answer to Secretary Lansing's demand for a modification of the new Tropic submarine decree, the Administration plans to devote as much energy as possible toward clearing the atmosphere of the impression that the State Department has "about faced" on the question of armed merchantmen.

It became more apparent to-day that there is no likelihood of any real break between Secretary Lansing and Count von Bernstorff on the basis of what has already taken place.

In fact Washington generally seemed to have reached the conclusion today that the official hints thrown out yesterday of irritation on the part of the President and Secretary Lansing over the German Ambassador's conduct were included chiefly to relieve the Administration of the embarrassment it was experiencing as the result of the latest submarine developments.

There is no doubt that some Administration officials believe to-day that the responsibility for the impression that has gained ground that the United States had definitely committed itself on the question of armed merchantmen.

It is evident, too, that there will be strong opposition within the Democratic party to any plan which contemplates merely a boosting of the surtax rates as applied to incomes over \$10,000 a year.

It has been held against the German Ambassador for some time, but it was not until the Administration began to feel the effects of public criticism that this was thrown out of strong official disfavor.

Many believe the Administration had no purpose in passing out the Von Bernstorff suggestions—none to bring about a reopening of all questions of information.

Germany's reply to the new demand of the United States is expected to be a declaration of formal neutrality, but the intention to sink all armed enemy merchantmen goes into effect on March 1st.

It is thought probable that a reply will be made before that date. The American government is also looking for some news from Austria before that time.

Waiting on Allies. The United States is also awaiting formal response from the British powers to the disarmament proposals of Secretary Lansing, although the application of the new law is expected to be made ready to take effect.

There are a few members of the New York delegation, however, who believe that preparedness is of such vital importance that they will support almost any form of taxation that promises to give the required protection.

The Republican members of the Ways and Means Committee believe that an increase in the income tax will be raised by an upward revision of the tariff.

As the Democrats will not assent to this, the Republicans will be obliged to take their money from changes in the income tax, a tax on munitions and an inheritance tax. Some of the Republicans will support a program of taxation containing one or more of these features.

Representative Kittell, the Democratic leader and chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, believes the only practicable way of raising the money for defense is by changes in the income tax.

Not Income Tax Alone. The bill by THE SUN indicates that a majority of the Ways and Means Committee will oppose any attempt to rely exclusively on the income tax for national defense revenue.

Twenty of the twenty-two members of the Ways and Means Committee and all the New York State members who were in Washington were asked this question by THE SUN:

Should funds for national defense be raised exclusively by changes in the income tax or by other means of taxation?

The members of the Ways and Means Committee replied as follows: Mr. KITCHIN of North Carolina, Democrat, said: "I have no objection to raising funds for the national defense by any means, but I am convinced the only measure we can get through the House for the raising of funds for the national defense budget is by changes in the income tax exclusively."

Mr. CONRY, New York, Democrat: "I think the funds for national defense should be raised partly by income tax changes and partly from other sources."

Mr. HILL, Tennessee, Democrat: "I am in such a position that I cannot express my views at this time."

Mr. COLLIER, Mississippi, Democrat: "The income tax should be changed considerably and that tax and a tax on munitions should pay a big proportion of the cost of preparedness. There should also be an inheritance tax."

House Leaders for Tax on Munitions and Incomes to Pay Bills for Defence

Majority of Ways and Means Committee Say That Wilson's Bond Issue and Other Proposed Levies Will Not Be Favored.

BOOST SURTAX RATES—FEWER EXEMPTIONS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—The increased revenues necessary for carrying out the Administration's preparedness program will be raised chiefly by changes in the income tax law and a levy on war munitions.

This is indicated by a poll that THE SUN has made of the Ways and Means Committee of the House, which originates all revenue legislation.

A majority of the committee, favoring nearly all the Democrats, favor raising mostly on the income tax for necessary revenue, and a majority also are disposed to levy a tax on munitions. There is also a sentiment in the committee favoring an inheritance tax.

A notable feature of the poll is that not a single member of the Ways and Means Committee spoke in favor of the program of revenue legislation proposed by President Wilson, except as it involved changes in the income tax law and the repeal of the free sugar clause of the tariff law.

Mr. ALLEN, Ohio, Democrat: "An inheritance tax is a very good thing, but it is too heavy in States where one now exists, increasing the surtax on incomes and lowering the exemption."

Mr. HAINES, Illinois, Democrat: "An inheritance tax is a large income and a munitions tax."

Mr. HILL, Connecticut, Republican: "I am in favor of adequate preparation for national defense and in favor of increasing the income tax, with the exception of any form of bonds. The taxable resources of the nation are not even scratched as yet. I think good public credit should be maintained. Any plan which would raise taxes for the purpose of all, but on a class legislation, is a bad thing. The problem is to find a way of raising the money for national defense and in just as doing as an individual military service. Why haggle over it? If our Democratic friends cannot devise a plan to do it justly, we will help them out on an equitable basis of non-partisanship."

Mr. LONGWORTH, Ohio, Republican: "I am in favor of a surtax on incomes over \$10,000 and there should be some increase in the surtax. The present income tax exemption is too high. It is better to have a surtax on incomes than any other source of revenue. I also favor a tax on munitions."

Mr. MOORE, Pennsylvania, Republican: "I am in favor of a surtax on incomes over \$10,000 and there should be some increase in the surtax. The present income tax exemption is too high. It is better to have a surtax on incomes than any other source of revenue. I also favor a tax on munitions."

Mr. PERINNE, Michigan, Republican: "I am in favor of a surtax on incomes over \$10,000 and there should be some increase in the surtax. The present income tax exemption is too high. It is better to have a surtax on incomes than any other source of revenue. I also favor a tax on munitions."

Mr. SLOAN, Nebraska, Republican: "I would not be averse to raising some of the money for defense by increasing the surtax, although I would prefer getting most of it by advancing the tariff on farm products and some other items of importation."

Mr. GARDNER, Massachusetts, Republican: "I am in favor of a surtax on incomes over \$10,000 and there should be some increase in the surtax. The present income tax exemption is too high. It is better to have a surtax on incomes than any other source of revenue. I also favor a tax on munitions."

Mr. GREEN, Iowa, Republican: "As a Republican I favor raising this money by increasing the surtax on incomes over \$10,000 and there should be some increase in the surtax. The present income tax exemption is too high. It is better to have a surtax on incomes than any other source of revenue. I also favor a tax on munitions."

New Yorkers' Views. New York Congressmen in Washington made the following replies: Mr. CHARLES of Amsterdam, Republican: "The funds should not be raised exclusively from income tax changes until the tax is so changed as to include everybody within its scope. Then if every man has at least a few cents a year to be government it will not be class legislation. Failing that I should imagine bonds could be sold very readily to start the program and the money should be used for doubling the surtax. It is too hard on New York and is not a fair proposition."

Mr. SNYDER of Little Falls, Republican: "The bills for national defense should be raised by some other means than by changes in the income tax."

Mr. DEBROSE, Sullivan County, Republican: "I am in favor of raising the income tax for this purpose and am also against a tax on munitions."

Mr. BENNETT of New York city, Republican: "The income tax is all right if it is spread thinly over all classes; otherwise it is a class tax."

Mr. HICKS of Port Washington, L. I., Republican: "This money should be raised by both income tax and other taxes and not exclusively by income tax changes."

Mr. DANFORTH of Rochester, Republican: "I would prefer to wait until we know what we have to pay for before going on record in favor of any plan for raising the necessary revenue."

Mr. QUILL of Seneca Falls, Republican: "I am opposed to increasing the income tax; I would raise the money for national defense by a progressive surtax."

Mr. CHANDLER of New York city, Republican: "I am opposed to increases in the income tax; I would raise the money for national defense by a progressive surtax."

Mr. DICKINSON, Missouri, Democrat: "There should be a very substantial increase in the income tax surtax as well as a lowering of the exemption. Of course, some of the cost of preparedness program, if it is adopted

MILLS INCOME TAX BILL TO BE SHELVED

It Will Not Receive Serious Attention in the State Legislature.

LEADERS ARE OPPOSED

Approval of the Governor's Public Service Nominations Is Expected.

ALBANY, Feb. 20.—State Senator OGDEN L. MILLS' income tax bill is not to receive serious consideration by the Legislature this year. Neither is any other bill which is aimed at materially changing the tax laws of the State.

It is generally conceded that Senator Mills' committee through its investigations carried on last year considerably clarified the problem of State taxation, but the opinion is that with the effort of the Republicans to get control of the Federal Government and retain control in New York State this year no drastic tax legislation should be attempted.

The Mills bill would tax all incomes—even of salaried employees—of more than \$1,500 when the taxed person is single and set an exemption limit of \$1,500 for man and wife or \$2,000 when they have two or more children.

Senator Mills has submitted an elaborate report to the Legislature justifying such a tax to take the place of the present tax on personal property, which he insists is so evaded that it is practically uncollectible.

But Gov. Whitman and the Republican Legislature leaders are in line to let the Democrats have all the glory they can get out of their Federal income tax and for the present at least have no thought of considering the national taxation idea. The only bill which has been introduced in a Republican income tax in the Senate.

To Push the Proposals. Now the Governor's plan intends to push the proposals for a state income tax at every opportunity and he has not been at all loath at the end to let the Legislature know that the income tax bill has received legislative approval.

Another week will probably go by without the State Senate Finance Committee acting on the income tax proposals of the Legislature and State Industrial Commissioners, which have been pending in that committee ever since they were sent to the Senate by Gov. Whitman last year.

At the Finance Committee's last session it was decided that the bill should be reported to the Senate by the end of the session.

That the present session of the Legislature will be prolonged is a possibility. The Legislature has accomplished little if anything up to date. Last week was empty of results, mainly because the legislative leaders were attending the Republican convention in New York.

Republicans had a working agreement with the Democrats that no advantage would be attempted during the convention week and that the bill would be reported to the Senate by the end of the session.

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GERMANS RAID KENT; PANIC IN CHURCHES

Pastor in Pulpit Has Narrow Escape—Three Persons Killed by Bombs.

FOUR SEAPLANES IN DASH

British Flyers Rise to Attack, but Invaders Got Away Unhurt.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. LONDON, Feb. 20.—Towns on the east and southeast coasts were attacked in broad daylight today by four German seaplanes which dropped many bombs. Up to a late hour tonight the official figures on casualties gave only three—two men and one boy—killed, and one man, a marine, injured. The damage, as officially reported, was confined chiefly to private property.

A portion of the official account is the admission that British aircraft, one biplane and two seaplanes, which succeeded in attacking the raiders failed to reach them. It appears the German seaplanes are capable of ascending to an extraordinary height. The War Office states that two biplanes after circling over the town of Lowestoft, in Suffolk, "rose to a great height and seemingly 'vanished.'"

Fifteen minutes later they reappeared over the town and then flew to the east. The raid occurred between 10:30 and about 11:30 o'clock. The War office statement follows:

Four German seaplanes raided the east and southeast coasts about noon today. The first raiders, two biplanes, appeared over Lowestoft at 10:30 o'clock, circled over the town and then flew to the east, dropping bombs and then rose to a great height and seemingly vanished.

Seventeen Bombs Dropped. At 11:15 o'clock the two seaplanes appeared again over the town and then dropped seventeen small explosive bombs. One dropped on a house, another on a school. Considerable damage was done to the outbuildings of a restaurant and two dwelling houses.

A third seaplane appeared at 11:05 o'clock and pursued the raiders without result.

Meanwhile two other German seaplanes making for the Kent coast had been seen by a biplane, which was dropping bombs in the vicinity at 11:20 o'clock. The last raider made straight for Walmer, reaching the town at 11:27 o'clock and dropping 11 bombs, six of which were incendiary. The raiders dropped six bombs and turned sharply back eastward. Two bombs fell, destroying roofs and breaking windows in a church, blowing out the windows in a garage, blowing out the windows in a warehouse.

The total casualties were two men and one boy killed and one marine injured. One of our seaplanes ascended from Dover and reached Walmer at 11:15 o'clock. They pursued the raiders, but apparently could not distinguish them. Some aircraft express the opinion that the seaplanes used by the Germans in the raid on Lowestoft were of a new type and is most unusual for seaplanes to fly so high and travel at such extraordinary speeds. Moreover, assuming that the raiders started from Zeebruge, British raiders say seaplanes never have travelled so far inland, for which some credit could be necessary. It is recalled that it recently was reported that the Germans had evolved a combination of submarine and seaplanes, the advantage being that a submarine could be used for the seaplane.

Details of the raid were not received until late tonight. At Lowestoft only three bombs hit buildings. Officers felt that the bombs had landed at such error that they could be considered as a mistake.

Official Warnings Ignored. Nobody seems to have seen the machines approach the coast, although the sky was clear. The streets were thronged with people seeking the sun and going to church. When the raiders were seen curiosity exceeded alarm and the official admonitions to seek shelter were ignored. The only casualty occurred in a little Methodist chapel, where a house a few yards away. A window of the chapel on that side was smashed. A fireball struck the house, and the church, some sticking in the woodwork. One person, the pulpit Bible, missing the pastor. Smaller fragments were showered on the people's heads. The only casualty consisted in a man's finger being cut. Some old people in the chapel collapsed as the result of fright. The service was not resumed.

One of the raiders was disabled and slacked the speed over Walmer. Church services were in progress in the town and the streets were nearly deserted. All the houses fell within a small area in which there were two churches. Several persons left, but the services were continued.

HANSA BUND SEEKING PEACE.

German Ship Owners Said to Fear Rains if War Goes On.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. LONDON, Feb. 20.—The Copenhagen correspondent of the Daily Mail telegraphs that he learns from a trustworthy source that more than 500 prominent men, including heads of business houses, Senators and members of Parliament, have petitioned the German government to begin peace overtures with a view to ending the war within the next few months.

The Berlin Telegraph says that the extraordinarily numerous petitions sent to the Reichstag and the Prussian Landtag "show a desire for an alteration in the campaign in order to hasten the end of the war."

GERMANS PAY \$6.35 FOR POUND.

English Paper Money in Circulation at a Premium.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. LONDON, Feb. 20.—The Rotterdam correspondent of the Times telegraphs: "A considerable amount of English paper money is circulating in Germany. A pound note fetches 28.40 marks (\$6.35)."

COBY QUILTS AS COUNSEL TO INVESTIGATORS; SAYS THOMPSON HAMPERED HIM

STATEMENTS GIVEN OUT BY COLBY AND THOMPSON

Mr. Colby's Statement. A statement which I made on the record week before last indicated the conditions upon whose recurrence my resignation would be instantly forthcoming.

In addition to this, but it is not the prime or moving cause of my action, because my forbearance in this respect is not wholly exhausted, I have felt increasingly hampered during the important examinations of last week by the disposition of the chairman of the committee to take the examination out of the hands of counsel as soon as he apprehended its drift and to substitute an unconsidered and wholly impulsive examination for that which counsel had in mind, based upon a careful review of the evidence in the committee's possession and the material at hand.

The chairman's right, however, to conduct the examination of witnesses in any manner that he sees fit is one that counsel cannot dispute.

In withdrawing from the service of the committee I wish to express my appreciation of its high aims. I regret that there should be any lack of coordination among its working forces that may in any degree retard the committee in fully realizing its objects.

Senator Thompson's Statement. The legislative committee has been in charge of its own investigation since its inception. The whole committee has been interested deeply in the investigation and has tried to help it along.

All we wanted was the truth and the only way for us to get it is to ask questions from different angles.



Bainbridge Colby.

I don't know what Mr. Colby means by a "recurrence of conditions." That phrase is not important anyway.

I feel very grateful to Mr. Colby for the assistance he has given us, for he has been of great assistance. I am sorry that he feels he cannot continue with the committee because he lends to the inquiry great dignity and high class forbearance, qualities which the chairman does not possess.

U. S. DEPUTIES FIND GERMAN ATTEMPT TO THE APPAM A PRISON CROSS YSER FAILS

Lieut. Berg Gives Them No Occupy British Trenches on Food and Virtually Holds Them Under Guard.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. NORFOLK, Va., Feb. 20.—Lieut. Berg, commanding the captured British liner Appam, has practically made prisoners of the two United States deputy marshals who went on his ship yesterday by the Federal court following proceedings brought by the African Steam Navigation Company, Limited, of Liverpool to get possession of the ship.

The lieutenant did not give the two Americans any food and forbade them from going about the ship. They were obliged to remain aft and were practically under guard.

United States Marshal Saunders was on board the Appam today, but Lieut. Berg practically ignored him. He refused to have anything to do with the marshal until Collector of Customs Hamilton, who protested yesterday against the action of the deputy marshal in serving papers on the Appam, came to his assistance.

Lieut. Berg, expecting to get a chance to go on board the Appam. All of them were disappointed, however, as no one but government officials was permitted on board.

Lieut. Berg received several bulky letters and telegrams today and it is said that he plans to hold a conference with representatives from the German Embassy tomorrow or Tuesday. The question of getting counsel to represent Germany in the court proceedings for the possession of the ship will be discussed, it is said.

SUPREME COURT TO RULE

Appam Owners Want Neutrality Pledge Straightened.

Neither Frederic R. Condit nor Ralph James M. Bullock, counsel for the African Steam Navigation Company, Ltd., of Liverpool, owners of the steamship Appam, would discuss yesterday the libel action instituted in the United States District Court at Norfolk in which the vessel recently brought into Hampton Roads by a German prize crew was seized on Saturday by a deputy United States Marshal. Both maintained that professional ethics forbade them from talking about the matter in the newspapers.

It is understood, however, that the libel proceedings have been brought with the intention of having the United States Supreme Court rule on the question of neutrality and international law which have arisen out of this and other cases since the war began determined by the United States Supreme Court.

The action will be tried first in the District Court in Norfolk and ultimately taken to the Supreme Court. It will probably be consummated in a few months and is expected to be one of the most interesting and significant litigations of its kind.

The principal contention of the libelants, it is said, will be that the Appam was brought into a neutral port in violation of the United States neutrality laws and that therefore the title of ownership reverts from the owner to the original owners of the vessel. It will be contended that the libelous article in the Freeman's Journal, in which the German Government claims its claim to the Appam as a prize of war does not apply to the liner, because she was brought into port in violation of neutrality laws.

Resents Making Public of Matters Gleaned From Gillespie Books.

FEELS PROMISE HE EXACTED WAS BROKEN

Publication of "Quigg" Letter One Cause of Lawyer's Indignation.

RESIGNATION WON'T STOP THE INQUIRY

Miles M. Dawson Also Severs Connections as "Assistant Counsel."

Bainbridge Colby, since January 29 counsel to the Thompson legislative committee and regarded by many as the guiding power of the investigation being conducted by that committee, resigned his post yesterday.

Mr. Colby, in a short formal statement given to the press, gives two reasons for his action. The first of these is that facts gleaned from an investigation of the books of the T. A. Gillespie company, one of the contractors for third tracking the elevated lines, appeared in the newspapers, although they had not yet been introduced in the public examination of witnesses.

The other reason, upon which Mr. Colby lays more stress in his statement, is that the investigation of the books had hampered his examination of witnesses by interjecting questions of their own. He specifies Senator George E. Thompson as the member whose disposition to do this has become increasingly apparent.

Thompson Hard Hit. Senator Thompson was hard hit by the news of Mr. Colby's resignation, which he made public himself. Pale faced and nervous, he told newspaper men that any question he and other members of the committee had been asked in his examination, but added that the only way to get the truth out of witnesses was by asking questions from every angle.

The resignation will prevent, although Thompson was not positive yesterday, he said the committee has very able counsel and although Senator George E. Thompson is a lawyer, it is probable that he will take charge. Both of these men have been with the committee since the inception of its investigation more than a year ago.

Senator Thompson received with Mr. Colby's resignation the resignation of Miles M. Dawson. Mr. Dawson resigned his position as "assistant counsel" to the committee, but he has been appointed to that post. Mr. Dawson had been engaged solely as an attorney, according to the German official statement. The French official communiqué issued tonight says that the Germans were immediately driven out again.

A number of heavy artillery engagements are reported from the region between the Meuse and the Moselle, and the district south of St. Mihiel. The British exploded two mines at Vanuise, in the Argonne, a German aeroplane bombed Lunville and the district of Lunville without causing damage.

The German statement, issued in Berlin today, is as follows: In an air fight east of Ypres on the Yser Canal north of Ypres an English position of 200 meters long, was stormed by the Germans. All the English attempts to retake the trenches by night had been repulsed. The English were driven out of the trenches. The German statement says that the Germans were immediately driven out again.

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